



Press Release

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Idaho Potato Production Up 2 Percent from 2006

Idaho's potato production is expected to total 132 million cwt, up 2 percent from last year's 129 million cwt, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Planted acres of 350,000 and harvested acres of 349,000 are up 15,000 acres from 2006. Statewide, yield is 377 cwt (field-run basis), down 9 cwt from last year's record high. Incidences of the Potato Virus Y were more frequent than normal, reducing yields in infected fields. Yield in the 10 Southwestern counties, at 490 cwt, increased 15 cwt from 2006. Total production in the area is up 3 percent from last year at 10.3 million cwt from 21,000 harvested acres. In Idaho's "other counties," yield is estimated at 370 cwt, compared to 380 cwt a year ago. Other area production from 328,000 harvested acres is expected to total 121 million cwt, 2 percent above last year's 119 million cwt. Data from the Potato Objective Yield Survey shows that the Russet Burbank variety accounts for 62.0 percent of the potato acreage planted in Idaho. Ranger Russets account for 14.4 percent of plantings, and Russet Norkotah is 9.8 percent of the total. Western Russet, at 2.8 percent, and Alturas Russet, at 1.7 percent, complete the top five varieties planted in Idaho for the 2007 crop. Idaho's sugarbeet production for 2007 is forecast at 5.44 million tons, down 8 percent from the 5.93 million tons produced a year ago. Yield of 32.6 tons per acre is expected to surpass last year's record high 31.7 tons per acre. Harvested acres of 167,000 is down from 2006's 187,000 harvested acres. Idaho's dry edible pea production is estimated at 408,000 cwt, a decrease of 12 percent from the 464,000 cwt produced in 2006. If realized, this would be the lowest dry edible pea production on record in Idaho. Lentil production of 426,000 cwt is down 9 percent from last year's 466,000 cwt. This is Idaho's smallest lentil production since 1990. Austrian winter pea production of 65,000 cwt is down 38 percent from the 104,000 cwt produced in 2006.

Nationally, production of fall potatoes for 2007 is forecast at 408 million cwt, up 2 percent from a year ago. Area harvested, at 997,800 acres, is up 2 percent from last year. The average yield for the fall crop is estimated at 409 cwt per acre, 3 cwt above the record high set last year. Sugarbeet production for the U. S. is forecast at 31.6 million tons, 7 percent below last year's production of 34.1 million tons. Area for harvest, at 1.24 million acres, is down 5 percent from 2006. Yields are expected to average 25.4 tons per acre, down 0.7 ton from the 2006 record high yield. Dry edible pea production for the U. S. is expected to total 15.6 million cwt, up 18 percent from the 2006 estimate. Lentil production, at 3.49 million cwt is up 8 percent from 2006. Austrian winter pea production of 150,000 cwt, is down 42 percent from last year.

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